

PRESIDENT TAFT ALLAYS WAR SCARE

No Reason for Sensation as
Country is at Peace With
All the World.

AS TO LARGE STANDING ARMY

Americans People Will Never Consent
To the Maintenance
Of One.

Washington, Dec. 17.—With the world "peace" conspicuous in the speeches, the international conference of the American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes closed tonight with a banquet, addresses by President Taft and a number of other distinguished speakers.

President Taft allayed "the so-called scare" which has furnished pabulum for newspapers in the last few days. He said:

"There is not the slightest reason for such a sensation because we are at peace with all the nations of the world and are quite likely to remain so." He said his purpose in outlining the preparedness of the United States for war, at a peace meeting, was to show by contrast "the great worthiness of the movement for a permanent court of arbitral justice and universal peace." The president summarized the condition of the national defenses and urged that a policy of "wise military preparation" be pursued. He emphasized the fact that the American people never would consent to the maintenance of a standing army sufficient to cope with that of the greater powers. He urged

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the retention of the present regular army, the improvement of the national militia, the passage of the pending volunteer bill to go into operation should war be declared, and the passage of a law now before Congress providing for a force of additional officers who will be able in times of peace to render efficient service in drilling the militia of the states and finally the accumulation of guns and ammunition "to equip and arm the forces which could collect under the colors in an emergency."

AS TO DISARMAMENT

President Taft asserted that the best method of ultimately securing disarmament among nations was the establishment of an international court and the development of a code of international equity. Declaring that the country has not reached a point where war is impossible, he cited the canal question. He said:

"Take the question of the Panama canal. We have a property which when completed, will be worth \$100,000,000—at least it will have cost us that. It has been built not alone to further the cause of the world's commerce, but also to bring our eastern and western seaboard closer together, and to secure the military benefit enabling our naval fleet to pass quickly from one ocean to the other. Now, the works of the canal are of such a character that a

warship might easily put the canal out of commission.

"We are authorized to police the canal and protect it and we have the treaty right to erect fortifications there. Fortifications are the best and most secure mode of protecting that canal against the attack of some irresponsible nation or armed force."

"It is said that we could neutralize the canal and by inducing all nations to agree not to attack the canal, secure its immunity from injury. But the trouble is that nations are quite as likely as men to violate their obligations under great stress, like that of war."

"It seems to me that we ought to put ourselves in a position with reference to this very valuable and delicate piece of property, so that, should any nation forget its obligation, we will be in a position to prevent unlawful injury to this instrument of commerce so valuable to the world and so indispensable to us."

"The fact that we fortify the canal will not prevent us from discharging all international obligations that we may have in respect to it, but it will enable us to defend ourselves in its possession against the act of every irresponsible force or nation. It will not prevent our maintaining its neutrality if that is wise and right."

COAST DEFENSES

The president said the United States had excellent coast defenses for every important harbor that an enemy could enter. He summarized the preparedness of the country for war by saying:

"We probably ought to see to it that we have ammunition and guns enough for ready use in cases of emergency. We have a small, but very efficient, army of 80,000 men. We have a militia of about 125,000 men. The army is so constituted that we could enlarge it from a skeleton organization into a much larger body. We ought to have more trained officers so as to furnish the teachers to a larger body of men that war might require us to enlist. There has been a good deal of talk in the papers, and some reference in Congress, to the supposed helplessness of this country in the event of a foreign invasion. I venture to think that much more has been made of this than the facts, calmly considered, would justify."

"We have a very good navy, and with the opening of the Panama canal, it will be a much more effective one. It would be useful to prevent the coming of an invading army across the seas."

NO LARGE STANDING ARMY.

"The people of this country will never consent to the maintenance of a standing army which military experts will pronounce sufficiently large to cope in battle with the standing armies of the greater powers, should they get beyond our army, avoid our harbor defenses and descend upon our coast. If this leaves us in a position of helplessness, then so be it. For those who understand the popular will in this country know that it cannot be otherwise."

In deprecating the idea of a war scare, the president said that "a little more forethought, a little more attention to the matter on the part of Congress, and we shall have all of the army and all of the munitions and material of war that we ought to have in a republic, situated as we are 3,000 miles on the one hand, and 5,000 miles on the other, from the source of hostile invasion."

ARMY VERY EXPENSIVE.

"Our army is much more expensive per man than that of any other nation, and it is not an unkindly evil that it is so, because it necessarily restricts us to the maintenance of a force which is indispensable in the ordinary policing of this country and our dependencies, and furnishes an additional reason for our using every endeavor to maintain peace."

"I congratulate this association on the recent foundation of Mr. Carnegie, by which, under the wise guidance of Mr. Elihu Root, Mr. Knox and their associates, an income of half a million dollars annually is to be expended in the practical promotion of movements to secure permanent peace. The wide discretion given to the trustees, and their known ability, foresight and common sense insure the usefulness of the gift."

Speaking of the achievements in the past by courts of arbitration, President Taft said:

"If we can negotiate and put through a positive agreement with some great nation to abide the adjudication of an international arbitral court in every issue which cannot be settled by negotiation, no matter what it involves, whether honor, territory or money, we shall have made a long step forward by demonstrating that it is possible for two nations at least to establish as between them the same system of the process of law that exists between individuals."

REBOUINS TAKE MAAN.
Constantinople, Dec. 18.—It is reported that a force of Bedouin rebels, 12,000 strong, have taken Maan, in the Soraik district.

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ARIZONA CONSTITUTION.
Election on Adoption or Rejection
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Washington, Dec. 18.—The election on the adoption or rejection of the constitution for Arizona probably will be held

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by Jan. 15, 1911, and if adopted the constitution may be in the hands of the president and Congress for approval before the end of the present session, according to the annual report of Richard E. Sloan, territorial governor of Arizona.

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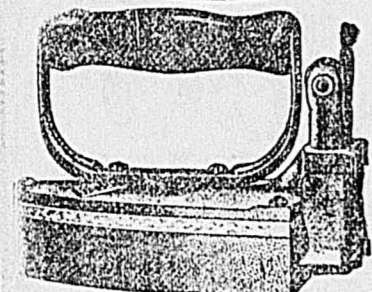
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